



Rotterdam United Methodist Church

January 2021 Newsletter

Volume 293 - Number 1
January 2021



1915 Helderberg Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
Pastor: Rev. Caroline Simmons

From Pastor Caroline. . .

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.” Howard Thurman

Dear Friends,

This quote from Howard Thurman reminds us that Christmas is not just one day each year. Christmas means so much more and yes, I wish we could hold Christmas in our heart throughout the year. We celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas, but also, we celebrate the coming of Christ once again into our lives. This tremendous gift of love we received at Christmas is a gift for us to share with others. Jesus came into the world – he was the light to dispel the darkness and we have been entrusted to bring that light to the hungry, the lost, the broken and all those who have not known Jesus.

After the Christmas carols have faded and we finish the season of Christmastide, we seem to move on as we venture into a new year. Often, we celebrate the beginning of a new year with joy, new resolutions, and hope that we will have a great year, full of blessings. As 2020 ends, most of us are thankful that this year is over, and we pray that our mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being will be much healthier for us all in 2021.

The year 2020 was like no other, and we witnessed the devastating effects a virus can have worldwide. I doubt anyone could have predicted that this past year was going to turn out the way it did and yet, we discovered that amid a pandemic, God is still with us providing us creative ways to connect and worship with one another. We saw how some people lived out their Christian faith by serving the needs of others, and we were able to provide worship via technology, beyond our local communities. On the other hand, we saw many who had emotional outbursts leading to violence and destruction in our country. We have experienced loss, pain and suffering, broken relationships, and the great need for healing.

What will the new year bring? How can we help others heal and be hopeful that 2021 will be a better year than 2020? We know that sooner or later we will be able to be vaccinated with one of the new vaccines that have been approved, but we don't know if there will be another economic stimulus package or not, and people are still struggling. Let's remain hopeful and faithful, remembering that God's love for us is endless and each of us can make a difference, even if it is for only one other person – we have been called to live out our faith and be God's light to all we meet.

Blessings,
Rev. Caroline

Transitions

Donald Stoddard, passed on to the Church Triumphant on Friday, November 27th.

Phyllis Handy, age 88, passed on to the Church Triumphant on Sunday, December 13th.

Kathleen Rosin, age 96, passed on to the Church Triumphant on Friday, December 18th.



Special Thanks:

to Sylvia Ballo for lending us her lovely hand painted nativity.

to Jessica Ross-Kozlowski for making the lovely new Christmas Cross hanging in the Sanctuary.

to the Hutchins for organizing the Mitten Tree and to Caryn March for organizing the Angel Gifts and to everyone who participated in either. Thank you. The gifts were truly a welcomed sight for those in need this Christmas.

to the Reillys for running the December Brooks BBQ and to everyone who worked it.

to everyone who continues to volunteer to help at worship services.

to all essential workers who continue to go in to work everyday, putting their lives at risk so that we may continue to try to live a normal life.

to all of the folks who continue to reach out to others in our church family and keep in touch during this difficult time, especially around the holidays.

to all those who continue to support our church by volunteering and performing the various daily tasks required to keep our church running. Without such a dedicated family, RUMC wouldn't be the church it is today. Thank you for your commitment.

Thank You

My deepest thanks to the people of Rotterdam UMC who surprised me with such a nice Christmas gift (love offering).

~Rev. Caroline

Thank You

I thank everyone for the Christmas cards. You all made me so happy. I did not know I had so many friends in this church. God Bless you all. Keep coming here and you will also reach 100.

God Bless all and Happy New Year!

~ Christina Urys

Thank you!

Thank You

Thank you for the wonderful Holiday gift. It was a pleasant surprise and greatly appreciated. It's so nice to be part of such a caring church family.

~Charito

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the lovely cards and gift cards. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful and appreciative church family.

~ Dawn March and Melissa Klindtworth

A copy of the Letter from the Opening Committee in December:

To our Church Family,

The Opening Committee for our church recently met to discuss the church's current operations and protocols. After much discussion, given the Holiday Season and due to the rising increase in COVID-19 positive cases in our area and the increase in hospitalizations, the committee by consensus agreed to pause our church **in-person** attendance. This pause is being done out of an abundance of caution and to protect everyone in our church family, especially during the holidays.

The committee also observed the tremendous burden that our frontline healthcare workers are being challenged to meet and we need to do everything we can to fight this virus. We really want everyone to have a safe and healthy Christmas.

The pause will start on Wednesday, December 16th and hopefully end on January 23rd, depending on conditions found at that time. The committee will meet again on January 20th to review the COVID-19 environment in our area.

Our pastor and other key individuals have agreed to continue to live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/RotterdamUMC/> and record a full church service, not only on Sunday's, but for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve as well. We realize this does not reach everyone, but hopefully, it will reach most of our church family who wish to view the service. (And remember, you don't need a Facebook account to watch the service after it's been live streamed. Just type in the link above on your computer.) We want to thank the pastor and those individuals for stepping up to reach out and continue the mission of our church.

In addition, we will be temporarily discontinuing all in person meetings and suspending Boy Scout and Cub Scout meetings after December 16th. Wonderland Preschool has advised us that they will be suspending in person attendance at the nursery school beginning December 14th thru January 4th. All of their classes will be held remotely during this time.

We realize the pandemic has been a difficult time for all and we pray everyone stays safe and well.

God Bless and Happy Holidays,
The Opening Committee

RUMC Food Pantry donations

While church worship and activities are on pause, donations for the RUMC Food Pantry can be left inside the brown Delivery Box under the mailbox. This box will be checked regularly.

We also ask that for the winter season, that you drop off boxed or packaged food items (**no glass or expired please and no canned or plastic or other items that may freeze and crack!**)

If you are finding that your supply of groceries isn't quite enough to get you through each week, we invite you to stop by the Cupboard at any time and take whatever you can use.

Sponsored by your
Stephen Ministry Team





*Happy Birthday
to the following people in January*

- 2 Skyla Faye
- 3 Ruby Lee
- 5 Owen Mance
- 6 Jim Bleser
- 7 Phil Moore
- 11 Maggie Merenberg
- 14 Gail Kitchen
- 15 Rebecca Cooper
Alexandra Merritt
Carter Merritt
- 17 Lyle Brown
- 20 Paul Shaw
- 21 Frank Lashway
- 22 Camren Mance
Clarke Rhinehart
- 27 Warren Starr
Eve Paulus
- 29 Thaddeus Pinckney
- 31 Mike Quivey
Claudia Savoy
Andrew Cornell



happy anniversary

*Happy Anniversary
to the following couples
in the month of January*

- 9 Shirley and Henry Polgreen
- 27 Judy and Jim Bleser



Lectionary Readings

January 3 – *Epiphany Sunday*

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 10 – *7th Sunday after the Epiphany*

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 17 – *8th Sunday after the Epiphany*

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 24 – *9th Sunday after the Epiphany*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 31 – *0th Sunday after the Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Looking Ahead

February 7 – *1th Sunday after the Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**“You will find as you look back
upon your life that the moments
when you have truly lived are the
moments when you have done
things in the spirit of love.”**

Henry Drummond

January Security

Date

- 3 Gary Spawn
- 10 Roberto Aulet
- 17 Thaddeus Pinckney
- 24 Mike Quivey
- 31 Tim Reilly

January Calendar:



- January 1: Happy New Year!
- January 2 - 3: Worship Service Online Only - January 3 at 10:00 a.m.
- January 4 - 8: No Activities - Church Building Closed
- January 9 - 10: Worship Service Online Only - January 10 at 10:00 a.m.
- January 11 - 15: No Activities - Church Building Closed
Deadline for February Newsletter - January 15
- January 16 - 17: **Brooks BBQ - January 16 (CANCELLED)**
Worship Service Online Only - January 17 at 10:00 a.m.
- January 18 - 22: Church Opening Committee Virtual Meeting - January 20
No Activities - Church Building Closed
- January 23 - 24: Worship Service - January 24 at 10:00 a.m. (in-person or online TBD)
- January 25 - 29: Boy Scouts - January 25 - 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall (TBD)
Trustee Meeting - December 22 at 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall (TBD)
- January 30 - 31: Worship Service - January 31 at 10:00 a.m. (in-person or online TBD)



January Ushers

<u>Date</u>	
3	Online Worship
10	Online Worship
17	Online Worship
24	Fred Anderson
31	Fred Anderson

Brooks BBQ Dates for 2021

(All dates are Saturday unless otherwise noted)

- January 16 - Cancelled
- February 6
- April 17
- June 5
- Friday, July 9
- September 11
- October 16
- December 4



Many Thanks

Over 200 items - 13 scarves, 7 hat and mitten sets, 101 hats, 3 head bands, 10 mittens, 42 gloves, 19 socks, 2 sweaters, 2 baby blankets and a pair of boots were taken to the Schenectady Inner City Mission. Here is the real meaning of the Christmas holiday. Thank you all for your participation in the Mitten Tree project.

~Al & Sandy Hutchins

Happy New Year 2021



Year End Audit

As we end 2020, we are approaching the year end audit. Now is the time to organize your committee's financial records to be audited. Due dates will follow later, but in the mean time, you can begin to compile the following items for our auditor:

- Records supporting your incoming and outgoing funds. (including cancelled checks and receipts)
- Bank Statements where applicable.
- A list of, and support for, all your accounts.
- Any other records important or related to your committees 2020 financial activities.



RUMC Offering Envelopes

In an effort to save money and reduce our postage expense, your box of 2021 RUMC offering envelopes is available for pickup in the lobby of the Church on Sundays during worship service recordings and on Thursdays from 10 to noon. Questions, please call Melissa at 518-280-2935.

Stewardship

I know many of you have already returned your commitment card, but for those of you who have not had a chance to do so, you once again have the opportunity to make your personal commitment for 2021 Church-giving by completing an estimate of giving card and returning it to us by mailing it in to RUMC or by dropping it in the locked mailbox. You will find an estimate of giving card enclosed here in this month's newsletter.

Last year, many of you returned an estimate of giving card as a witness of giving to God and as a way to plan your giving for our ministry. Again this year, we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider your commitment to our church family and our financial needs. It is important that we receive an estimate of giving from you to help us plan our budget for the coming year.

We recognize and understand that for many of you this is a deeply private and sensitive subject, and we feel strongly about honoring this part of your worship. For this reason, it is *only* RUMC's Financial Secretary, Melissa Klindtworth, who will have access to your 2021 pledged offerings. To that end, if you are unable to personally return your estimate of giving card we encourage you to mail it directly to Melissa at the following address:



Attn: Melissa Klindtworth
Rotterdam United Methodist Church
1915 Helderberg Ave.
Schenectady, New York 12306

With Gratitude,
The Finance Committee.

Stewardship

Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe it is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God.

Thank you all for your stewardship and commitment to RUMC and your church family through your 2021 pledges.

Estimate of Giving/Commitment Card 2021

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in God's church, community, and world.

Please complete this estimate of giving and return it to the church office or email your pledge amount to Melissa Klindtworth at mklindtworth@yahoo.com. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying the financial secretary Melissa Klindtworth.

If you have questions regarding this form, please call Melissa at 518-280-2935.

Name (Please Print):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Home Phone:

____ Yes! I/We will support Rotterdam United Methodist Church financially in 2021.

Please Choose One & fill in the amount:

\$_____ a week for 52 weeks

\$_____ twice a month for 24 periods

\$_____ every month for 12 months

THE MEANING OF LOVE

BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-13

Scripture for Today

AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. BUT
THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:13

LESSON—The Apostle Paul told the early Christians that love was the most important part of the Christian life. He said that love was kind and considerate. Love is patient and does not anger easily or do evil to another person. Paul said that all of us need to learn how to love as Jesus loved us.

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

NEVY

TENTIPA

DINK

DROUP

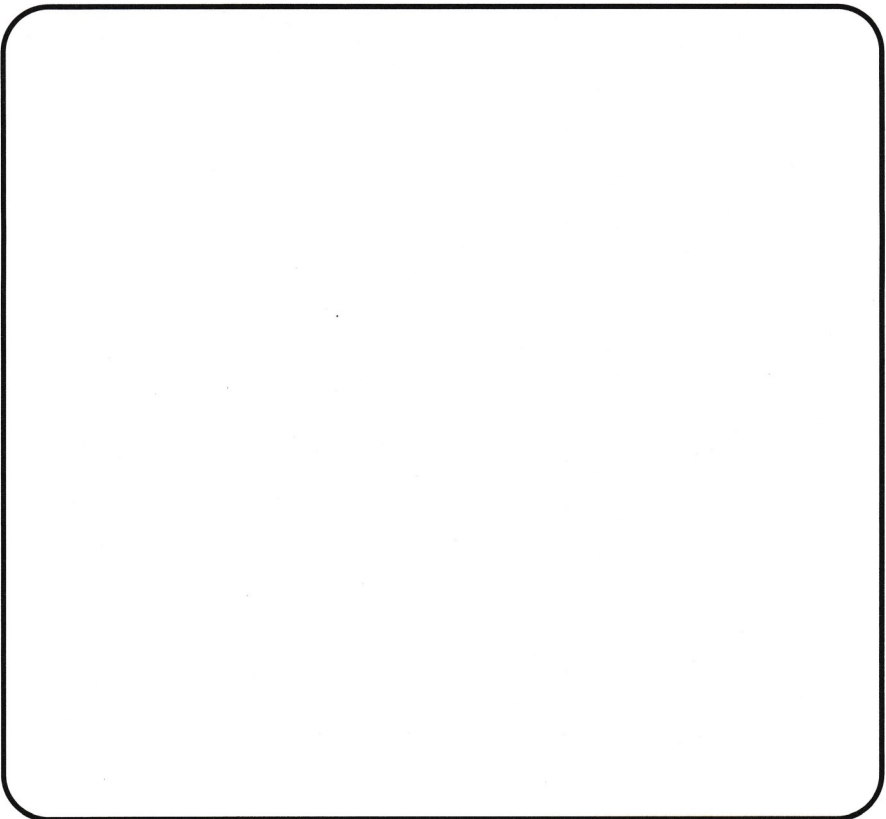
TRUE OR FALSE

1. Love is kind to others.
2. Love is not proud.
3. We should all love one another.

DRAW A PICTURE OF SOMETHING YOU LOVE

DRAW A PICTURE FROM TODAY'S
SCRIPTURE LESSON

COLOR THIS PICTURE



ANSWERS

WORD SCRAMBLE

TRUE OR
FALSE

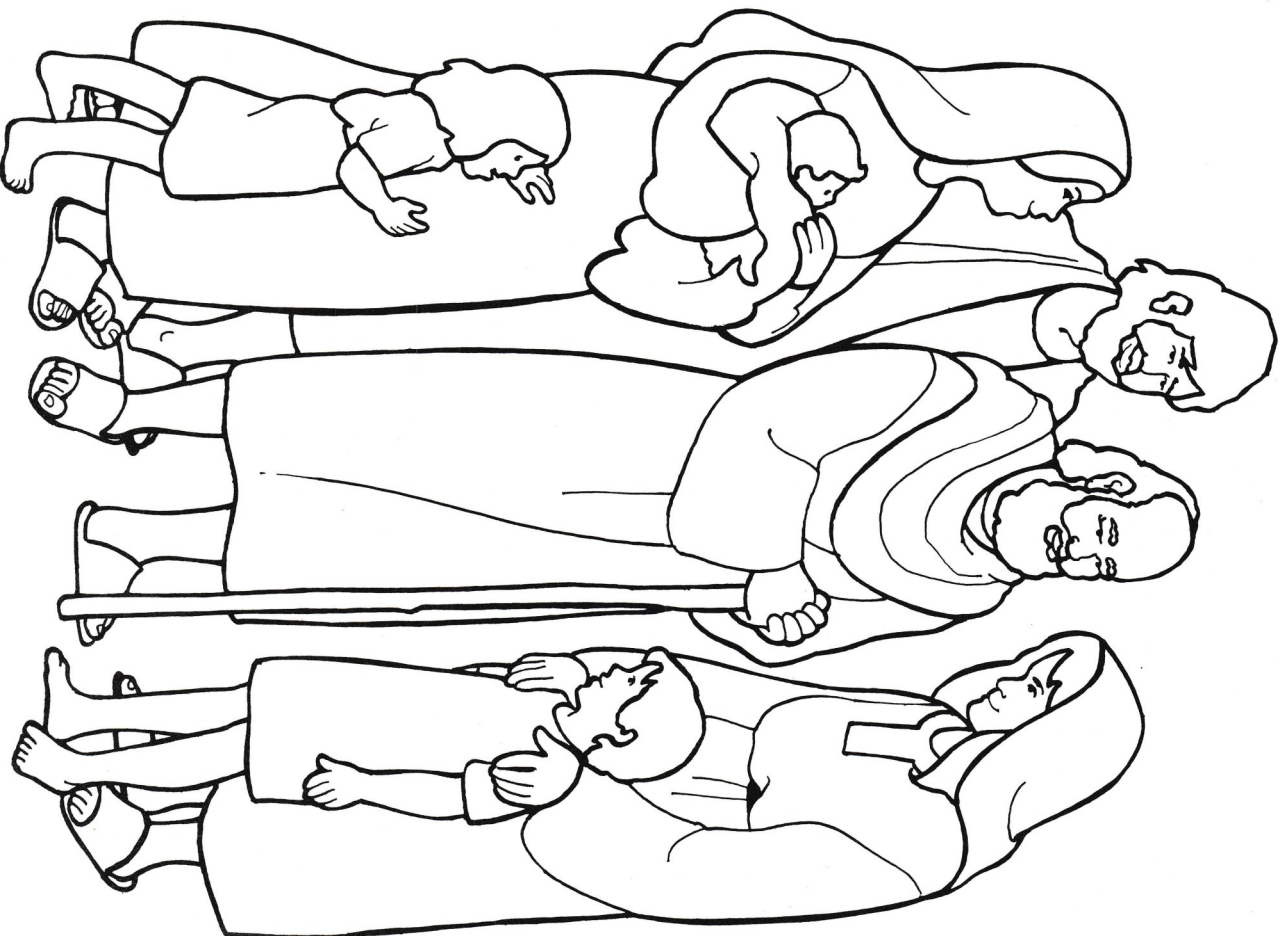
1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE

ENVY

PATIENT

KIND

PROUD



Prayer Requests:

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please submit that request at anytime via e-mail to Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org

Telephone requests can be made by calling the church office at 518-355-3401 during office hours or by calling either Donna Spawn at 518-355-9649 or Dawn March at 518-356-2833.

RUMC Digital Sign:

If you have any suggestions for messages or announcements for upcoming events, please see Dawn March or email her at Office@RotterdamUMC.org. She is always looking for short, inspirational messages.



Electronic Giving

Rotterdam UMC accepts credit cards for donations via our website. Powered by PayPal, we accept electronic donations for weekly giving and memorials. Donations can even be setup to be given on a recurring basis. There is a cost associated with providing this benefit to our congregation and we would ask that you consider giving a little bit extra when donating on line so Rotterdam UMC can benefit from your full donation. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Scott at sahutch2326@gmail.com

Look for us on Facebook at
"Rotterdam United Methodist Church"
and click on "Like" at the top of the page.
Join us for our Live Streamed
Worship Services.

Important web sites and e-mail:

Rotterdam UMC web site:

RotterdamUMC.org

RUMC E-mails:

Office: Office@RotterdamUMC.org

Prayer Request: Prayers@RotterdamUMC.org

Upper NY UMC Web Site:

www.unyumc.org

Albany District Web Site:

www.unyumc.org/district/albany

District Superintendent E- mail:

AlbanyDistrict@unyumc.org

"READING FROM THE
COMPUTERIZED VERSION OF
THE HOLY BIBLE.... 'AND
JESUS CHOSE TWELVE, THAT
THEY MIGHT NETWORK WITH
HIM....' "

